

WILLIAM MARTIN BEAUCHAMP

1830-1925

William Martin Beauchamp was born at Coldenham, Orange County, New York, on March 25, 1830, the son of William Millett Beauchamp and Mary Jay Beauchamp. He died on December 13, 1925. The Beauchamp's came to this country from Somerset, England, in 1829. Their name of French origin had long been verbally anglicized—as its pronunciation “Beecham” bears witness.

The family moved to Skaneateles, New York, in 1831, when the younger William was slightly more than a year old. The father founded a local paper, the “Democrat,” and maintained a circulating library as a private enterprise. It is not unlikely that easy access to many books as well as early contact with the printing business helped to shape the literary bent of the son. On the other hand, a stimulating environment, dominated by one of the most beautiful of the Finger Lakes, may well have contributed in no small degree to his love of nature.

William Beauchamp, as he was known to his contemporaries, received his early education at the Skaneateles Academy which he attended up to 1847. One may suspect, however, that those qualities which later bore fruit in scientific attainment were nurtured by lake, field and wood rather than by the formal secondary instruction of that period. For a number of years the young man was associated with his father in the publication of the “Democrat,” but later he decided upon the ministry as a career, studying in the Delancey Divinity School at Hobart College. Made a deacon in 1862, he was ordained a priest of the Protestant Episcopal Church in 1863. From the rectorship of Calvary Church, Northville, New York, he went in 1865 to Grace Church at Baldwinsville, New York, remaining there until 1900. From 1900 he made his home in Syracuse. The greater part of his long life was therefore spent in Onondaga County of his native State.

Two institutions in central New York have signally recognized Doctor Beauchamp's activities. In 1886 Hobart conferred upon him the degree of S. T. D., while Syracuse University made

him an LL. D. in 1920. If one will consult the 1921 edition of "American Men of Science," these activities will be found to range from American history and local Colonial history through Iroquois language and folk-lore to archeology and the natural sciences!

Doctor Beauchamp has long been recognized, nationally and internationally, as an authority on the language, history and culture of the Iroquois. To readers of NAUTILUS he is perhaps best known for his "Land and Fresh Water Shells of Onondaga County, with a Supplemental List of New York Species." His interest in zoology, however, was not limited to work which reached the publication stage. His daughter, Grace Beauchamp Lodder (Mrs. J. S. Lodder), states that he has left manuscript notes on mollusks and on fishes.

Doctor Beauchamp reached a wide circle by his writings and his position as author and scientist is secure. To those who knew him personally, it is probably safe to say that Beauchamp the man made the strongest impress.

Short and wiry, with keen eyes and white beard, Beauchamp in clerical dress was a familiar figure at many scientific gatherings and natural history field excursions. With a wealth of anecdote, interesting or amusing, Beauchamp never lacked for hearers on such occasions. He seldom talked for long without a smile and a contagious geniality attracted men of the most diverse temperaments.

But Beauchamp's remarkable qualities were not confined to those of the heart and mind. He retained astounding physical activity in a ripe old age. The writer well remembers seeing Doctor Beauchamp at 75 climb a mean talus slope with the utmost agility. Behind him stumbled and puffed a group of undergraduates from one of our famous New England universities.

Beauchamp made the most of his environment. While others went far afield he stayed with his county's rocks, plants and shells. The written record of its white men was of interest, but probably the strongest incentive to research came from its aborigines. His investigations covered a wide range in history and in science and were largely carried on during a period when

he filled a responsible position as minister of the gospel. In old age a genial enthusiasm kept him young mentally and physically well into his 96th year.—BURNETT SMITH.

W. LEWIS MAY

One by one the older wiseheads pass away and we of the younger school, while we miss their valued advice, must realize we are growing older, and must take their place without their experience.

Tasmanian conchology without W. L. May appears incomprehensible, as for the last thirty years he has been sole arbiter. Gifted with clear judgment, a great collector, well read and methodical, his advice was ever sound; in addition he was a clever draughtsman and his "Illustrated Index" is a monument of real value.

Twenty-five years ago a "Revised Census of Tasmanian Shells" was issued under the names of Tate and May. The latter provided the majority of the material and the illustrations, while the former prepared the more technical matter. While this was passing through the press, Tate died, and since then May has continued the work alone. He was fortunately spared to complete his task, and in 1921 appeared the "Check List of the Shells of Tasmania," and in 1923 followed the "Illustrated Index," figuring every Tasmanian shell, the whole of the figures, over 1000 in number, being drawn by himself. This is the only complete illustrated account of the Mollusca of any State of Australia, and is being utilized daily in all the southern parts of Australia.

May was only sixty-four years of age and was taken seriously ill in the beginning of 1925 but recovered sufficiently to take a sea voyage through the islands. Passing through Sydney we proposed to monograph the Australian Marginellids, a group May was especially interested in. However the sea voyage came too late, and May only arrived back in Sydney on his death bed, passing away in this city on Aug. 30, 1925.

A member of the Society of Friends, May was very quiet, but never allowed his judgment to be influenced by anything